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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 134116
ORIGIN EUR-12

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66011
DRAFTED BY EUR/WE: EMROWELL
APPROVED BY EUR/WE - MR. ROWELL
----------120908 261034Z /10
R 260034Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUDKFDQ/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0488
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 9644 ACTION SECSTATE INFO FLORENCE GENOA
LENINGRAD MILAN MOSCOW NAPLES PALERMO 24 MAY 78

QUOTE:
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E.O. 11652 N/A
TTAGS: UR, IT
SUBJ: L'UNITA CONDEMNS ORLOV TRIAL

1. FOLLOWING AN EMBARRASSING DELAY, NOTED BY IMPORTANT SECTORS OF THE NON-COMMUNIST PRESS, THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) DAILY L'UNITA ON MAY 24 FINALLY CARRED A COMMENTARY (ON THE FIRST PAGE)STRONGLY CRITICIZING THE TRIAL AND CONVICTION OF SOVIET DISSIDENT JURIY ORLOV. THE L'UNITA COMMENTARY WAS WRITTEN BY GIULIANO PROCACCI, A PCI SCHOLAR ON SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS.

2. OBSERVING THAT THERE ARE MANY ITALIANS, COMMUNISTS AND
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NON-COMMUNIST, WHO HAVE FELT TROUBLED AND OFFENDED BY THE STIFF SENTENCES HANDED DOWN RECENTLY BY SOVIET COURTS AGAINST ORLOV AND OTHER SOVIET DISSIDENTS, PROCACCI NOTES THAT THE MOVE ORLOV IS RATHER GRAVE SINCE QUOTE IT APPEARS UNJUSTIFIABLE FOR SEVERAL REASONS: FROM THE RAPDITY OF THE PROCEDURAL DEBATE TO ITS MODALITY (THE FREINDS AND THE SUPPORTERS OF THE ACCUSED WERE NOT

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ADMITTED INTO THE COURTROOM, WHILE HOSTILE INDIVIDUALS
WERE) TO THE DISPROPORTION OF THE PENALTY (SEVEN YEARS OF
FORCED LABOR AND FIVE OF EXILE FOR ORLOV) IN RELATION TO
THE CRIME, GIVEN THAT IT IS NOT CONCEDED THAT A CRIME TOOK
PLACE. END QUOTE.

3. THE GENERAL THRUST OF THEARTICLE IS THAT TRIALS
AGAINST DISSIDENTS ARE NEGATIVE FOR THE IMAGE OF THE USSR
AND COULD IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON THE PROCESS OF DETENTE.
PROCACCI NOTES THAT QUOTE ONE CAN OBSERVE THAT THE IMAGE A
COUNTRY PROJECTS TO THE WORLD OF ITS OWN SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL STRUCTURE CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT AND POSSIBLY
A DECISIVE ELEMENT NOT ONLY FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE,
BUT ALSO FOR ITS OWN CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE WORLD AFFAIRS.
THERE DOES NOT EXIST IN THE MODERN WORLDAN ACT OF INTERNAL
POLICT THAT IS NOT EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY A FOREIGN
POLICY ACT. THIS APPLIES TO ANY STATE. END QUOTE. THE
AUTHOR SUGGESTS THAT THE IMAGE OF THE USSR IN THE WORLD
WAS HIGHEST IN 1936 AND 1956 WHEN THE SOVIETS WERE ABLE
TO PROJECT THEIR SOCIETY AS ONE WHICH WAS RICHER, MORE
ARTICULATED AND, MORE FREE IN POLITICAL TERMS. ON THE
OTHER HAND, THE LOWEST POINT OF SOVIET INFLUENCE AND
PRESTIGE WAS REACHED, ACCORDING TO THE AUTHOR, DURING THE
TRIALS AND PURGES ORDERED BY STALIN. PROCACCI CONCLUDES
HIS COMMENTARY BY STARTING THAT QUOTE THE VERDICT OF MOSCOW
AGAINST ORLOV BY STATING THAT QUOTE THE VERDICT OF MOSCOW
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AGAINST ORLOV CERTAINLY DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVE THE
PRESENT IMAGE OF THE USSR IN TERMS OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION.
FOR THE REASONS THAT I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN, I ALSO
BELEIVE THAT THEY DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE OF
DETENTE. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THE L'UNITA COMMENTARY IS NOT SIGNED
BY A SENIOR PARTY OFFICIAL, ITS PROMINENT PLACEMENT ON THE
FIRST PAGE OF L'UNITA GIVESIT SUBSTANTIAL WEIGHT AND
SUGGESTS THATIT WAS APPROVED BY THE PARTY LEADERSHIP
BEFORE BEING PUBLISHED. ITS TONE IS SUBSTIANTIALLY TOUGHER
THAN THATUSUALLY RESERVED FOR THE USSR, ALTHOUGH OBSERVERS
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO ASK WHY IT TOOK THE PCI
SO LONG (RELATIVELT) TO ACT. GARDNER
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER



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NNN

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TRIALS, COMMUNISTS
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**SAS ID:** 2547916
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** L\'UNITA CONDEMNS ORLOV TRIAL
**TAGS:** SOPN, PINT, PINS, IT, UR, L UNITA, (ORLOV, JURIY)
**To:** LISBON VALLETTA MULTIPLE
**Type:** TE
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/caceb695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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